Promotion of tourism

16. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up marine parks, Disneyland-type amusement parks, develop water sports, open duty-free-shops, allow 40 per cent equity in hotels for NRIs, issue multi-entry Five Year visas for foreign tourists and also lower the rate of custom duties on about 200 items in order to boost tourism;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the private sector's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) to (c) Provision of equipment for water sports has been sanctioned at a number of centres in the country. Proposals have been received for setting up a recreation centre in Hyderabad from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and in Delhi and Maharashtra from private parties. India Tourism Development Corporation, a Public Sector Undertaking, operates Duty Free Shops at the Airports at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Trivandrum. Multi-entry visas for foreign tourists are given for a period of three months extendable by another three months. There is no proposal at present to issue a five year multi-entry visa for tourists. 75 items required for import by hotels have been made eligible for concessional customs duty as applicable to project imports. The private sector's response has been very positive.

Committee of Secretaries on Import Bill

17. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of Secretaries was set up on December 4, 1986 to examine reduction of country's massive import bill and recommend elimination on non-essential imports; and

(b) if so, what are its findings and recommendations and what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No formal Committee was constituted. A Group of concerned Secretaries was asked to go into the question of curbing imports of non-essential items.

(b) As suggested by them, tightening of procedures and stricter scrutiny of imports are being made.

Findings of Kudal Commission referred to CBI

18. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what are the details of the findings of the Kudal Commission which were referred to the CBI and how many out of them have been booked in courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): 29 cases were referred to CBI from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Interim Reports submitted by the Kudal Commission of Inquiry. Out of them 9 cases have been registered. No case has been taken to the court as yet.

Demand for 'Jharkhand' State

19. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the agitation on the demand of 'Jharkhand' State comprising parts of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh; and